



MHS Juniors – Class of 2025 – Plan for your future!

Juniors should begin planning *now* for their future. What type of post-secondary education is right for you? What career path interests you? What education is needed for that career?

Students have many options and should begin researching and planning during their junior year. This allows students to take the right steps to achieve their goals.



Post-Secondary Options:

4-year college or University

Students planning to apply to a 4-year college or university must research the admissions criteria for each school. Visit the college websites to learn about admission criteria, deadlines, majors offered, size, location, student life and cost of attendance. Students should be prepared to submit applications to 4-year colleges/universities at the beginning of their senior year. It's recommended to apply to 4-6 colleges so that students have options. Students are strongly encouraged to visit their top choices before senior year.

State Colleges/Community Colleges

Many students decide to attend a state or community college like State College of Florida. State colleges award Associate of Arts (AA) degrees, Associate of Science (AS) degrees and many offer a limited number of 4-year Bachelor's degrees. The AA degree is a pathway to then transfer to a 4-year university to obtain a Bachelor's degree. This is called the "2+2" program. AS degrees are designed to provide technical skills to move into a career.

Technical College

Technical colleges, like Manatee Technical College, train students for a variety of career fields such as automotive service technology, carpentry, cosmetology, dental assisting, nursing assistant and digital design. Many of these programs can be completed in less than one year.



Military

Serving our country in the armed forces is also an option for high school graduates. Whether it's the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines or Coast Guard, students interested should talk with recruiters and understand the criteria and commitment to enlist. The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) test is required for students interested in the military and may be offered in the spring.



Junior year is the time to research your options!



Comparison Chart



H.S. Graduation Requirements	FL (SUS) Requirements (State University System)	FL Bright Futures Scholarship
GPA = 2.0 Unweighted	GPA = See handout	GPA: Academic = 3.5 Weighted Medallion = 3.0 Weighted Gold Seal = 3.0 wtd / 3.5 Voc
<u>Credits:</u>	<u>Credits:</u>	<u>Credits:</u>
4 - English	4 - English	4 - English
4 - Math (1 - Algebra 1) (1 - Geometry)	4 - Math (Algebra 1 and Higher)	4 - Math (Algebra 1 and Higher)
3 - Natural Science (1 - Biology)	3 - Natural Science	3 - Natural Science
3 - Social Science (1 - World History) (1 - US History) (1/2 US Govt - 1/2 Econ)	3 - Social Science	3 - Social Science
000 - World Language None	2 - World Language *Same Language *3 Preferred	2 - World Language *Same Language
1 - Fine / Performing / Practical Art		GS only 1 - Fine / Performing Art
1 - Physical Education (1/2 Personal Fitness - 1/2 PE)		GS only 1 - HOPE
8 - Elective Credits	2 - Academic Electives	A/M: 2 - Academic Electives GS: 3 - In a single vocational program
<u>Testing:</u> Pass Algebra 1 EOC / B.E.S.T. Algebra EOC Pass Gr 10 FAST ELA Reading Take: Biology, Geometry, US History EOC's (These count as 30% of final grade.)	<u>Testing:</u> ACT = See handout SAT = See handout CLT = See handout	<u>Testing:</u> Academic: ACT = 29, SAT = 1340 (R/M), CLT = 96 Medallion: ACT = 25, SAT = 1210 (R/M), CLT = 84 Gold Seal: See website
<u>Community Service Hours:</u> None	<u>Community Service Hours:</u> None - Looks good on applications	<u>CSH or Work Hours or Combination:</u> Academic = 100 / 100 / 100 Medallion = 75 / 100 / 100 Gold Seal = 30 / 100 / 100
<u>For More Information:</u> http://www.edline.net/pages/sdmcmanteehs	<u>For More Information:</u> http://www.flbog.edu/	<u>For More Information:</u> http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/ssfad/bf/

***GPA's are never rounded

*** Information in the chart may change with legislative updates



Checklist for Juniors

FALL 2023

1. **Visit the Class of 2025 Schoology page weekly.** (on Schoology, click "Courses" then look for the class page; on the Class of 2025 page, click "Updates" on the left side menu). Important information will be posted here, so stay informed.
2. Learn about college options. Attend college fairs in person or virtually. Researching colleges online is easy. Review the websites of colleges you are considering and/or try the [College Board Big Future site](#).
3. Make good grades. Your grades, especially in the core academic areas, are an important part of the college admission criteria.
4. Get involved in clubs, activities and other volunteer and service organizations.
5. Explore careers. There are career exploration sites on the [College and Career Center page](#) of the MHS website.
6. **Register to take the SAT, ACT, and/or the CLT** in December/January/February and throughout the spring. Fee waivers for the SAT, ACT and CLT are available for qualifying students. Use those results to determine which test to take again to improve your scores. Most students take these tests 2-3 times, starting second semester of junior year.
7. Check your Florida Bright Futures status -are you on track to earn the scholarship? Go to www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org/ssfad/bf (click on "Bright Futures Scholarship" on the right) to see requirements.

WINTER/SPRING

1. **Take the SAT, ACT, and/or CLT.** Prepare for the tests. Check out free, on-line practice from College Board and ACT and CLT.
2. Attend the MHS **College Night for Juniors January 18, 2024– 6:30pm in the MHS Davis Theater** to learn more about what you can do now to prepare for college.
3. Continue to **research prospective colleges**. Learn about their admissions requirements and application deadlines.
4. Consider AP, honors and/or dual enrollment classes when registering for your senior year classes. It's important to keep up the rigor of your curriculum in your senior year while maintaining a balance so you don't overload! Talk to your school counselor about options.
5. Begin creating your college resume – including all your high school achievements (clubs, sports, honors, etc.)
6. **Visit college campuses – in person if possible.** Take an official campus tour to learn more about the school and what they offer. Many colleges host in person and/or virtual open houses/admission information sessions.

SUMMER

1. **Visit colleges.** Sign up on their websites for an official visit.
2. **Prepare your resume** - all activities, clubs, sports, work, honors, volunteer service, etc. that you've done in high school. This information may be needed as part of the college application, as well as scholarship applications.
3. Begin writing your **college essay**. Check the websites of the colleges you are interested in to see what their essay questions are. The essay allows you to tell the college about yourself. A great essay will present a personal and compelling view of you to the admissions staff.

Florida Public University Information 2023

University	Mid Range GPA	Mid Range SAT	Mid Range ACT
FAMU Florida A&M	3.91	1070-1240	22-27
FAU Florida Atlantic	3.70-4.30	1090-1250	22-28
FGCU Florida Gulf Coast	3.76-4.51	1080-1230	21-26
FIU Florida International	4.1-4.7	1240-1370	26-30
FLPOLY Florida Polytechnic	4.0-4.7	1250-1390	28-32
FSU Florida State	4.3-4.6	1340-1450	29-33
NCF New College	4.03	1100-1310	22-29
UCF U of Central Florida	4.1-4.5	1260-1380	26-30
UF U of Florida	4.4-4.6	1370-1510	31-34
UNF U of North Florida	3.80-4.44	1060-1250	21-27
USF U of South Florida	4.10-4.59	1250-1390	27-31
UWF U of West Florida	3.95	1050-1230	21-27

Mid Ranges are for Fall 2023 Accepted Students

Visit the college websites for updates, deadlines and how to apply

Many have November 1st deadlines/priority deadlines



SCF Equals Success



Whether you're seeking to earn a career-ready degree or make a smooth transition to a university, State College of Florida has the full college experience at exceptional savings. SCF also offers online classes, more than 30 workforce certificates and an array of signature programs such as accelerated dual enrollment, SCF Honors and Gator Engineering.

State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota offers a broad variety of credit and noncredit educational opportunities.

- Associate in Arts Degree (A.A.)
- A.S. Degrees and Certificates
- Baccalaureate Degrees
- SCF Online
- Noncredit and Personal Enrichment Courses

Associate in Arts Degree- A.A. students complete general education courses and prerequisite classes to prepare for a seamless transition to a four-year program. If your goal is to earn a four-year degree at SCF or elsewhere, an A.A. from SCF is affordable, convenient and offers you a complete college experience.

Save money! You will pay less than half the cost of most universities. SCF offers financial aid, scholarships and payment plans to help you graduate with little to no debt. Your credits are transferable to any Florida public college or university. SCF works with prominent universities to offer customized advising for establishing clear transfer pathways into high-demand programs.

Associate in Science -SCF's Associate in Science Degree and Certificate programs provide practical training and critical thinking skills to help you succeed today and advance tomorrow. Pathways include Biotechnology, Business Administration, Computer Programming, Construction Management Technology, Criminal Justice Technology, Dental Hygiene, Early Childhood Education, Engineering Technology, Business Entrepreneurship, Graphic Design, Nursing A.S., Occupational Therapy Assistant, Paralegal/Legal Assisting, Physical Therapist Assistant and Radiography.

LEARN MORE ABOUT SCF AT [SCF.EDU](https://www.scf.edu)

Manatee Technical College
(MTC)

www.manateetech.edu



Manatee Technical College's post-secondary career and technical education programs help prepare learners to achieve success in a rapidly changing, highly technical workplace. With over 50 programs, they offer more career training choices than any technical college in Florida. Their curriculum includes career certificate, applied technology and apprenticeship programs – each led by supportive faculty and administrators who provide coursework that incorporates both academic and occupational applications. Creating career success for over 50 years, MTC has provided students, employers, and the business community in Manatee County with a strong educational foundation.

Ideal for those who want a “**career in year,**” many of the programs can be completed in six to twelve months. Students may attend on a full- or part-time basis, and many classes are available day and evening. Financial aid is available to qualified applicants.

In order to attend MTC, students may need to take the Basic Skills Assessment Test required by the State of Florida. For testing schedules, call 941.751.7900(Main Campus) and 941.752.8100(East Campus)

Some of the Career Prep programs offered at MTC are:

Allied Health (*Medical Coder/Biller, Pharmacy Tech, etc.*)

Auto and Marine (*Automotive Service Technology, Marine Services Technology, Etc.*)

Construction and Manufacturing (*Advanced Manufacturing, Drafting, Plumbing, Welding Tech., etc.*)

Culinary (*Baking and pastry Arts, etc.*)

IT, Business and Creative (*Accounting Operations, Digital Design, Web Development, etc.*)

Education and Training (*Early Childhood Education Apprenticeship, etc.*)

Health Science (*Dental Assisting, EMT, Paramedic, etc.*)

Law, Public Safety & Security (*Firefighter, Florida Law Enforcement Academy, etc.*)

Salon Services (*Barbering, Cosmetology, etc.*)

The Main Campus is a new state-of-the-art facility located at State Road 70 East in Bradenton. This 210,000 square foot facility is home to the career technical programs that were previously located at the original campus on 34th Street.

The East Campus, located at 5520 Lakewood Ranch Boulevard offers comprehensive training programs in Health Occupations, Law Enforcement and Fire Science.

College Planning Resources

Big Future - <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>

Part of the College Board website, Big Future is a college research and planning tool

- * Plan for College- college search, college basics, find your fit
- * Explore Careers - information on college majors and careers, take a career quiz
- * Pay for College - information on various types of financial aid, scholarship search

There is a lot of great information on this site to help you understand more about colleges, including videos from students and professionals.

Create an account today! If you have already created a College Board account (username and password), then you can log in to College Board and click on Big Future to access all this information.

Class of 2025 Schoology Page

Check the Updates on the left side of page for news/events/information. It is important that you check the page often – you don't want to miss any important information

Opportunity Board

Be sure to check the Opportunity Board often for the latest College and Career Center news and information. Located in the hallway between the cafeteria and Media Center, the Opportunity Board is where we post:

- * scholarship opportunities
- * SAT/ACT test date reminders
- * college info



Manatee High School Website

The College and Career Center page on the MHS website provides college planning information to students and parents. We will post college news, important dates, checklists, and the scholarship list. Be sure to visit the site often to stay up to date on College and Career news.

The Guidance Department also has a page on the website with information about class selection and Dual Enrollment.

The site is <https://www.manateeschools.net/manatee> Click on the "Academics" tab, then on "College and Career Center" or "Guidance".

Career Planning Resources

Having a career goal may help you determine what type of college is best for you. There are many resources that can help you assess majors, career goals, interests, and skills. Here are just a few resources that can help:

Career Profiles – College Board - <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>

The Big Future section of the College Board website is full of information on careers. Under the “Explore Careers” section you can search careers by name. Enter a career to get details on that career, the education required and related careers.

There is also a Career Quiz. It takes about 15 minutes. When you use the career quiz, it surveys your interests so College Board can recommend careers to you. You can save this information to your College Board account.

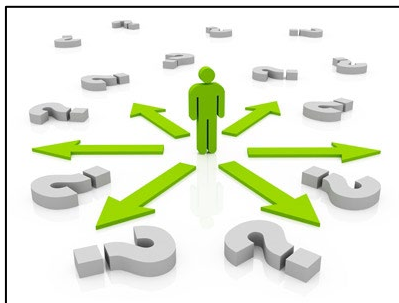
Florida Shines - <http://www.floridashines.org>

Florida Shines works with the state's 40 colleges and universities and other partners to help you succeed in school and beyond. This website provides a wealth of information for students about colleges in Florida as well as careers. Click on the “Plan Your Career” section for middle and high school students to explore career fields and specific opportunities in those areas.

Check out “[My Next Move](#)”, an assessment tool offered by the U.S. Department of Labor. Explore careers by keyword, industry, or interest.

Other Career Sites to explore:

- Xello – students will see this tile in their SSO. Xello has assessments and more to help students identify possible careers, and more.
- 16 Personalities - <https://www.16personalities.com/>
- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics - <https://www.bls.gov/k12/>



SAMPLE RESUME

Stephanie Ann Student

100 Oak Street West
Bradenton, Florida 34220
Student@manatee.xxx

Education

2020- Manatee High School 902 33rd Street Court West
Bradenton, Florida 34205

Educational Achievements

- * College Preparatory Academy 9,10,11,12
- * Medical Academy 9,10,11,12

Honors and Awards

- * White M academic letter 9, 10, 11(highest academic honor – 3.6 GPA or higher for three of four quarters each year)
- * Second Place Regional Science Fair 9
- * National Honor Society 11, 12

Extra-Curricular Activities

- * Student Council Corresponding Secretary 11
- * Student Council representative 9,10,11,12 – 1 hour/week
- * Class Board 9,10,11,12 – 1 hour/week
- * Junior Leadership Manatee 11 (Selective county leadership program)
- * Macohi school newspaper staff reporter 9, 10
- * School Marching Band 9,10,11,12 – 5 hours/week
- * HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) 9,10,11,12 – 1 hour/week
Placed 3rd in HOSA State competition 10
- * Manatee High School Swim Team 9, 10,11 – 4 hours/week in season
Varsity Letter 11,12

Community Service

- * Mam'Selles Girls' Community Service Club 9,10,11,12 – 3 hours/week
Performed a variety of community service activities, including tutoring at the Girls' Club and toy drive for Adopt a Family
- * Key Club at Manatee High School 9,10,11,12 – 3 hours/week
Tutor at elementary school one day a week; participate in variety of projects
- * Teen Court community service program 10, 11 – 2 hours/week
Serve as a juror one day a week
- * Youth Group at Church 9,10,11,12 – 3 hours/week
Serve as leader at weekly programs; participated in mission trip

Work Experience

- * Server at Freedom Village Retirement Home 10, 11, 12 -15 hours/week

Colleges tell us it is the **quality** of your extracurricular activities versus the **quantity**. Don't feel like you need to join 50 organizations to make your resume longer. They'd prefer to see fewer activities and real depth of involvement, including leadership roles.

Dual Enrollment Opportunities 2024-2025 :

Dual Enrollment updates for the 2024-2025 school year have not been released yet. When released, updates will be posted on the MHS website under Guidance and Dual Enrollment. There will be a mandatory Dual Enrollment meeting 2nd semester for students wanting to Dual Enroll for their senior year.

I. Dual Enrollment at SCF – Students must qualify and have their own transportation.

	Dual Enrollment (Part Time)	Early Admissions (GR 12 only) (Full Time)
Credit Requirement	10 HS credits including 2 in math and 2 in English	18 HS credits. 2 in math (Alg/Geo or higher) and 2 in English
GPA Requirement	3.0 unweighted	3.0 unweighted
SAT Test Scores	R=24, W=25, M=27	R=24, W=25, M=27
ACT Test Scores	R=19, W=17, M=21	R=19, W=17, M=21
PERT Scores	R=106, W=103, M=123	R=106, W=103, M=123

1. Students meet with their MHS counselor for eligibility determination/advisement.

**** Students must be on target for HS Graduation.**

2. If a student qualifies:

- A. Must complete the SCF Early College Application online (1st time only SCF students).
- B. Fill out the MCSD Contract for Early College/Dual Enrollment Programs.
- C. Fill out the SCF Early College Approval Form.
- D. Return forms from B. and C. to your counselor.

II. Dual Enrollment on MHS Campus Through USF – Students must qualify.

	Dual Enrollment (Part Time)
HS Credit Requirement	2 in English, 2 in math, 1 in science and 1 in social studies
GPA Requirement	3.5 weighted gpa
SAT Test Scores	Evidenced-Based Reading and Writing=560, M=530, **M=570
ACT Test Scores	R=21, M=21, **M=24
PERT Scores	R=106, W=103, M=123 (For MAC 1147 – Students need ACT/SAT)
CPT (Accuplacer) – At USF	R=256, W=253, AAF=250

Courses offered: ENC 1101/1102, AMH 2010/2020, MAC 1105/ STA 2023, and **MAC 1147.****

Course offerings are based on student requests.

1. Students meet with their MHS counselor for eligibility determination/advisement.

2. If a student qualifies:

- A. Must complete all parts of the USF application online (1st time only USF students).
- B. Fill out the MCSD Contract for Early College/Dual Enrollment Programs.
- C. Fill out the USF Dual Enrollment Approval Form.
- D. Returns forms from B. and C. to their counselor.

III. Dual Enrollment at Manatee Technical College - Students must qualify, be willing to complete all/some of their high school courses online (if needed) through FLVS/MVS and have their own transportation.

College Entrance Exams

SAT/ACT

Students must register online to take the SAT and/or ACT. Students create an account and follow the directions to register for a test. There are registration deadlines, so plan ahead. Your SAT and/or ACT account is also where you will check for your scores. Be aware of registration deadlines. *NOTE – The SAT is transitioning to a digital test in the spring of 2024.*

Be sure to PREPARE for these college entrance exams! Students should study for these tests just like the preparation for any test. Carve out time each week to take practice tests, review study guides, quiz yourself on vocabulary, review math concepts, etc.

Fee Waivers for the SAT and ACT tests are available from school counselors for qualified students. Students may use the fee waiver for 2 SAT tests and 4 ACT tests. SAT – once you use the initial waiver, the second waiver will automatically post on your College Board account. ACT – see counselor for waivers.

CLT

The CLT is now used by Florida Public Universities (and a limited number of colleges across the country) for admission, as well as Florida Bright Futures to meet the test score requirement. The CLT is a remotely proctored exam, all online, with specific technical/computer requirements. Students must register online by the deadlines. Check that the colleges you are interested in accept the CLT.

Fee waivers are given once students complete the CLT [Financial Assistance Request Form](#). Only two per academic year may be granted.

<i>PRACTICE! PRACTICE! PRACTICE!</i>

SAT

The College Board has partnered with **Khan Academy** to provide free, online, personalized prep to help students improve their SAT scores.

Go to <https://www.khanacademy.org/sat> to learn more and to create your account.

- Personalized to you
- Official
- Interactive
- Instant

ACT

ACT provides free, online, personalized practice with **MyACT**.

Go to <https://my.act.org/account> to learn more and create your account.

- Free online test prep
- Free study guide
- Free online test prep events

CLT

CLT provides free online test prep at <https://www.cltexam.com/tests/test-prep/>

NOTE: When registering to take the SAT or ACT, be sure to request that the scores be sent to one of the 12 public universities in the state of Florida.. Or make sure you have sent them SAT or ACT scores after testing. That is how test scores are accessed for Florida Bright Futures scholarship evaluation.

SAT TEST DATES FOR 2023-2024

\$60.00

REGISTER ONLINE AT www.collegeboard.org

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
Aug. 26	July 28	Aug. 15
Oct. 7	Sept. 7	Sept. 26
Nov. 4	Oct. 5	Oct. 24
Dec. 2	Nov. 2	Nov. 21
March 9*	Feb. 23	Feb. 27
May 4*	April 19	April 23
June 1*	May 16	May 21

Go to the College Board website for updates, changes and to register

**Beginning with the March test, the SAT will be a digital administration; Registration for the spring 2024 test dates are subject to change*

ACT TEST DATES FOR 2023-2024

\$68.00 – no writing/\$93.00 - with writing section

(Writing section required for some colleges- check each college for their requirements)

REGISTER ONLINE AT www.actstudent.org

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
Sept. 9	Aug. 4	Aug. 18
Oct. 28	Sept. 22	Oct. 6
Dec. 9	Nov. 3	Nov. 17
Feb. 10	Jan. 5	Jan. 19
Apr. 13	March 8	March 22
June 8	May 3	May 17
July 13	June 7	June 21

Go to the ACT website for updates, changes and to register

CLT UPCOMING TEST DATES

\$59.00

REGISTER ONLINE AT <https://www.cltexam.com/tests/clt/>

Test Date	Registration Deadline
Oct. 14	Oct. 9
Oct. 18	Oct. 12
Nov. 2	Oct. 26
Dec. 2	Nov. 27
Jan. 27	Jan. 22
Feb. 15	Feb. 8
March 16	March 11
April 11	April 4
April 24	April 10
May 11	May 6
June 20	June 13

Go to the CLT website for updates, changes and to register

BRIGHT FUTURES SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM				
Scholarship Name	Florida Academic Scholars Award (FAS)	Florida Medallion Scholars Award (FMS)	Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars Award (GSV)	Florida Gold Seal CAPE Scholars (GSC)
Grade Point Average (GPA)	3.5 weighted GPA using the credits listed below	3.0 weighted GPA using the credits listed below	3.0 weighted GPA using the credits listed below and a 3.5 unweighted GPA in three vocational courses	High School Diploma and Completion of Associate or Science/Applied Science
Criteria for Bright Futures eligibility includes an un-rounded, weighted high school GPA (calculated to two decimal places). The following courses are weighted as 0.25 per semester course or 0.50 per yearlong course in the calculation of the GPA: Advanced Placement (AP), Honors, or academic Dual Enrollment. For example, an "A" equals 4 quality points for an unweighted course and an "A" would equal 4.50 quality points for a weighted course.				
Required Credits	Courses must include 16 credits of college preparatory academic courses. 4 English 4 Mathematics (Algebra I and above) 3 Natural Science 3 Social Science 2 Foreign Language (sequential in the same language) <hr/> 16 Credits May use up to 2 additional courses listed above and/or AP, IB, or AICE fine arts courses to raise the GPA	Courses must include 16 credits of college preparatory academic courses. 4 English 4 Mathematics (Algebra I and above) 3 Natural Science 3 Social Science 2 Foreign Language (sequential in the same language) <hr/> 16 Credits May use up to 2 additional courses listed above and/or AP, IB, or AICE fine arts courses to raise the GPA	Credits must include 16 core credits required for graduation. 4 English 4 Mathematics (including Algebra I) 3 Natural Science 3 Social Science 1 Fine or Practical Art 1 HOPE <hr/> 16 Credits Plus a minimum of 3 Career and Technical Education credits in one vocational program.	Earn a minimum of 5 postsecondary credit hours through CAPE industry certifications which articulate for college credit
Comm. Service/Work Hours	100 CSH or 100 Work/Combo	75 CSH or 100 Work/Combo	30 CSH or 100 Work/Combo	30 CSH or 100 Work/Combo
Test Scores	ACT / CLT / SAT 2024 Grads: 29 / 96 / 1340 2025 Grads: 29 / 96 / 1340	ACT / CLT / SAT 2024 Grads: 25 / 84 / 1210 2025 Grads: 25 / 84 / 1210	SAT: Reading 24 Writing/Language 25 Math 24 OR ACT: English 17 Reading 19 Math 19 OR PERT: Reading 106 Writing 103 Math 114	No testing requirements.
The Florida Legislature is authorized to change eligibility and funding requirements at any point. Students may apply for this scholarship program beginning on October 1st of their senior year. For the most updated requirements and additional detail about these awards, please refer to the Bright Futures Handbook at https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/SAPBFMAIN/SAPBFMAIN .				
Additional Info	In addition to completing the Initial Student Florida Financial Aid Application, it is also strongly recommended that students submit a complete, error-free Free Application for Federal Student Aid application. The FASFA form should only be completed online at https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa .			

Community Service Hours (CSH)

Remember: Community Service Hours are NOT a requirement for graduation. They are, however, a requirement for the Bright Futures Scholarship. **NEW** this school year: Students may use a combination of community service hours with work hours. 100 work and community service hours are required no matter which scholarship you are trying for.


The required forms and instructions for documenting community service hours or paid work hours for Bright Futures can be found on the Manatee High School website under “Parents and Students” and “Community Service Procedures.”

Letters of Recommendation

There may be times when you might be asked for a letter of recommendation. The best place to start is with your teachers, past or present. Your teachers know you best, especially in regard to work ethic, time management skills, how well you work with others, special contributions/strengths, etc. There may be times when you are asked specifically for a letter of recommendation from your counselor. Whoever you ask, ask them in person and please give them 2 weeks notice. You will also need to provide a copy of who the letter is for, who it should be mailed to, give them a copy of your high school resume, and for Guidance we have an additional form we may ask you to fill out.

How to Schedule an Appointment with Your School Counselor

1. Come to the Guidance Office to pick up a Request for Guidance Appointment form.
2. Fill out both sides completely, especially your teachers’ names and room numbers.
There is a sheet in Guidance that has all the teachers’ room numbers on it.
3. Put the form in the box that is outside your counselor’s office.

Request for Guidance Appointment				
(Fill Out Both Columns) 		Student: _____		
Student Name: _____	Grade: _____	Period	Teacher Name	Room #
Counselor: _____	Date: _____	1		
		2		
Reason for Request: Personal _____ Academic _____		3		
		4		
Please explain (Be specific): _____		5		
		6		
		7		

HELPFUL WEBSITES

College and Career Websites

www.collegeboard.org – SAT test info, college exploration and planning

www.actstudent.org – ACT test info, college exploration and planning

<https://www.cltexam.com/tests/clt/> - CLT test info, colleges that accept CLT

<https://www.manateeschools.net/manatee> – The MHS website

<https://www.floridashines.org/> - Florida Shines

<http://knowhow2go.acenet.edu/> – college planning

<https://www.bls.gov/ooh/> - Occupational Outlook handbook from the Bureau of Labor Statistics

SAT/ACT/CLT Test Prep Websites

<https://www.khanacademy.org/sat> - College Board practice site

<https://my.act.org/account> - ACT practice site

http://www.testprepreview.com/sat_practice.htm

<http://www.proprofs.com/sat/exams/practice-tests.shtml>

<https://www.cltexam.com/tests/test-prep/> - CLT practice site

Big Future Scholarships – A Clearer Path To College



The Big Future Scholarships guide you through the college planning process and offer you a chance to earn money for college for each action you complete. The more effort you put in, the more opportunities you have to earn a scholarship. Complete all six, and you're eligible to earn \$40,000. Scholarships will be awarded through monthly drawings to students who complete each action.

Learn more about your scholarship eligibility at bigfuturescholarships.org.

Paying For College

While most scholarships and financial aid applications cannot be completed until senior year, take time to understand the different sources of financial aid so that you are prepared for next year.

1 Federal Aid -- FAFSA

Complete the **FAFSA – Free Application for Federal Student Aid** at www.FAFSA.gov. The FAFSA is the *key* to federal grants (like the Pell Grant), federally backed student loans and work study. It is need-based aid. You can apply **OCTOBER of your senior year**. You will need federal tax information or tax returns. See the FAFSA website for details.

We encourage *all* families to complete the FAFSA even if you think you won't qualify, since colleges and many scholarships use information from the FAFSA to determine if you are eligible for their aid.

It's important to complete the FAFSA in October of senior year – be aware of deadlines each college may have.

2 State Aid – Florida Student Financial Aid

Seniors must complete the Florida Student Financial Aid application to be eligible for state aid, including **Florida Bright Futures**. Bright Futures provides scholarship money for students who will attend college in Florida. It is merit-based aid - eligibility is based on GPA, SAT/ACT scores **and** community service hours/work hours.

Seniors must apply between October 1 and graduation to be eligible. Go to www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/ssfad/bf/ to apply. It's important that you know and understand the eligibility requirements!

All students should apply-- even if they are not sure if they will qualify, if they are not considering going to college, are planning to go out of state, are taking a year off or are enlisting in the military. There are state grants in addition to Bright Futures for which you may be eligible. See details of eligibility requirements on the above website.

3 Institutional Aid

Check for scholarships at the college you will attend. Many offer scholarships through their financial aid office. Students may need to submit separate applications. Also, ask the specific department of the major you will be seeking to see if they offer any scholarships. Scholarships may be need-based and/or merit-based.

4 Private Scholarships

There are many national and local organizations that offer scholarships. Some are specific to a major, an ethnicity or require certain GPA/test scores, so students need to read each carefully for the eligibility requirements.

The College and Career Center at Manatee High School maintains a list of scholarship opportunities that is posted on the school website (<https://www.manateeschools.net/manatee>) – click on “Academics” then “College and Career Center” to see the link.